



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

June 14, 2019

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: June 18, 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **June 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A on the first floor.

The REVISED agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the May 21, 2019 AAC meeting will be available prior to our meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site. I will bring copies of the minutes, agenda, and other attachments.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
June 18, 2019 REVISED Agenda

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from May 21, 2019.
3. Update on the Farm Alcohol Production Facilities-We are still looking for the Memorandum of Understanding between the OAG and the Department of Permitting Services to assist with the implementation of Farm Alcohol Production. The process will work like the County Vendors Program under Chapter 47 of the County Code that goes back to 1996.
4. The MNCPPC has reassigned the Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-ASAC to the Division of Research and Special Projects. Josh Penn is no longer assigned to the project because staff representatives from the Division of Research and Special Projects are taking the lead role. The ASAC met on May 29, 2019 and a second meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2019.
5. The Full County Council approved the FY20 OAG Operating Budget supporting the Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee recommendations to restore the \$34,000 reduction. If the Edward Byrd Family Foundation provides funding for the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation-MAEF program, the Council recommended that OAG should use the restored \$34,000 for some other agricultural initiative. The 2018 funding from the Edward Byrd Family totaling \$50,000 to the MAEF was used for schools outside of Montgomery County. The County Council also recommended that an additional \$15,000 be appropriated to OAG to expand the MARBIDCO Cost Share Matching Grant Program.
6. The Sugarland Broadband Pilot Phase I along Partnership Road is completed and the residents service for Broadband and TV has been activated. The remaining residents in the Pilot are continuing to demand why they have not received service. The phase II of the project coming down Sugarland Road is scheduled to begin soon. There are still some residents that will not sign the Comcast easement and this negatively impacts the other residents downstream that want the Comcast Service-Barbara Weitzer and her daughter and son-in-law. The community leaders have decided to call out the residents that are negatively impacting their neighbors and this outcome may be problematic. **There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at some point.**
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html> The County has applied to the USDA for grant funding to expand broadband into the Agricultural Reserve. The grant funding will be used to determine the next area within the Agricultural Reserve where Broad band will be expanded. The County will continue to work with residents that want to help and represent the community by replicating the success of the Sugarland Pilot.
7. Update on the River Road Improvements- We are waiting for a date and time when Marc Elrich is available to attend a second community meeting with the 19 residents that live along the gravel portion of River Road. The Friends of Rustic Roads have

posted a face book page that focuses on the new owners that live along the road. Linda Lewis sent a letter to the County Executive and County Council explaining how the dust is negatively impacting their farming operation including farm income.

Friends of Rustic Roads - Montgomery County, MD
@friendsrusticroads

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Friends of Rustic Roads - Montgomery County, MD May 25 at 8:25 AM

News: push to pave our treasured gravel byways intensifies. Efforts to help educate MCDOT on how to properly maintain these roads are ongoing. At risk currently: Exceptional Rustic River Road. New property owners along the road are pressing to have the road paved. No change in safety record (accident history) or traffic volume along this road.

Edward Ferry Rd. to White Ferry Road
An Exceptional Rustic Road

11

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- Update on the County DEP and the Sugarloaf Citizens Association-SCA to allow approximately 18 acres associated with the County owned Linden Farm and Barn to be used for Regenerative farmers. There is a second property totaling 25 acres owned by the County (c/o DEP) will announce a RFP to find a Regenerative tenant farmer. These two properties represent a precedent where public lands will be available for regenerative farmers as compared to commodity farmers. The OAG is assisting John Jamison to explore whether he can be granted a short-term lease permit to farm the 25 acres for just the 2019 growing season and prior to the decision on the RFP. Here is what is posting on SCA Facebook page.

Sugarloaf Citizens Association
@sugarloafcitizens

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Farmer's Footprint
April 18 at 7:22 PM · Like Page

What is Regenerative Agriculture?

Regenerative Agriculture is a holistic land management practice that leverages the power of photosynthesis in plants to close the carbon cycle, and build soil health, crop resilience and nutrient density.

Regenerative agriculture improves soil health, primarily through the practices that increase soil organic matter.

This not only aids in increasing soil biota diversity and health, but increases biodiversity both above and below the soil surface, while increasing both water holding capacity and sequestering carbon at greater depths, thus drawing down climate damaging levels of atmospheric CO₂, and improving soil structure to reverse civilization-threatening human-caused soil loss. Research continues to reveal the damaging effects to soil from tillage, applications of agricultural chemicals and salt based fertilizers, and carbon mining.

Regenerative Agriculture reverses this paradigm to build for the future. We love this definition from Regeneration International and this inspiring urban farmer Jordan Sprick putting these practices to work every day at zero-waste urban microfarm Alegria Farms

Nicol Ragland - Photographer Director

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Here's a simple summary of regenerative agriculture from Drawdown:

<https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/food/regenerative-agriculture>

The Montgomery Countryside Alliance has been exploring this issue:

<http://www.mocoalliance.org/news/regenerative-ag-and-hemp-conference-follow-up>

9. Maryland Court Ruling on Bill 52-14 Pesticide Prohibition: The Pesticide Ban went into effect May 2, 2019 the same day as the decision of Maryland Court of Special Appeals. An Appeal to the Maryland Cort of Appeals was filed which means the Pesticide Ban is suspended pending the outcome of the appeal.

<https://www.courts.state.md.us/data/opinions/cosa/2019/1203s17.pdf>

10. ZTA 19-04 Animal Boarding and Care-Residential zones: This ZTA will allow Animal Boarding and Care as Limited use in the Residential zones. Currently Animal Boarding and Care requires a conditional use of approval. The OAG recommends that the agricultural organizations do not need to participate in the discussions surrounding this ZTA 19-04.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2019/ZTA%2019-04.pdf>

11. The Planning Housing and Economic Development-PHED Committee will discuss Pesticide Use in Parks on Monday July 8, 2019 @ 9:30 am. This may be related to the letters that MNCPPC sent out in December 2018 to farmers that lease farmland owned by MNCPPC?
12. Montgomery County's Agricultural Land Preservation Certification Report for FY15-18 has been approved by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Report will be presented to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation for final approval on June 25, 2019.
13. Barnesville Oaks Amendment-June 20, 2019 Planning Board-Please see the attached letter from the Office of Agriculture.
14. Please make sure you take a copy of the PLENTY Magazine first issue that I received today. This free magazine is funded by advertising and it will help to promote the Agricultural Reserve and the farming families in Montgomery County that are featured in this issue. If you and your family are interested in being featured in a future issue, please contact Jane and Wib:

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15. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-July 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-June 14, 2019 @ 9:00 am
UM-Ext. Pesticide Procrastinators Conference-40 years of Glyphosate -June 14, 2019
Agricultural Advisory Committee-June 18, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-June 26, 2019 @ 5:00 pm
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-July 2, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-July 9, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-July 12, 2019 @ 9:00 am
PHED Committee-Pesticide use in Parks-July 8, 2019 @ 9:30 am